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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Radio Service
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PRIMER FOR TOWN FARMERS Wednesday, January 1, 1930

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Speaking Time: 9 Minutes

ANNOUNCEMENT: Just a minute, folks. Don't start breaking your New Year's resolutions yet. Neighbor Thompson has one to add to your list. It's a very practical one. Mr. Thompson tells about it now, in today's PRIMER FOR TOWN FARMERS.

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The Thompson family makes New Year's resolutions faithfully. Making good resolutions is as much a part of our New Year's as a tinseled tree is of our Christmas. And it's great indoor sport to see how long we can go without breaking them.

Last year I resolved to do more reading---a good old standby. I resolved to keep an accurate expense account. I resolved to spend more time in improving the home surroundings. And I resolved to do, or not to do, a half dozen other things.

Well, I have spent more time in fixing up the yard and the garden and so forth. Mrs. T. and W.R.B., the garden advisor working together, saw to it that I did keep that resolution. But the one I was most interested in---checking up on expenses---didn't turn out so well. Anyway, I've concluded that it isn't practical to keep an itemized expense account.

This year I'm making a resolution that I'm going to keep. Don't laugh. I may do it. I've already taken a long step toward keeping it. I've resolved to tackle the problem of regulating expenditures from another angle. The Thompson family is going to budget its expenses in advance. Instead of locking the stable after the horse is stolen we're going to lock it right now.

The budget system is an old story to many of you. And if you who have tried it out have some good ideas to add to those the good wife, guided by the Federal Bureau of Home Economics suggested to me, I wish you'd write me about them.

At any rate we start out with certain fixed items---taxes, assessments, insurance, repairs, relephone, fuel, and lighting. These items aren't so hard to figure. Our bills for the past year help to determine the amounts that will be needed this year.

Then come family living, food, clothing and so forth. These items figure out fairly closely, also. And under living, let's include recreation. Nowadays a certain amount of recreation is a necessity. So I'm setting aside something for a vacation next summer, for an occasional visit to the theatre, for entertainments and so on.

Then, there is the church, and the local charities that merit support.

And, besides these essentials, there's one item that we must include for safety's sake---an emergency fund for medicines and doctor bills. And a fund for the semi-annual visits to the dentist and for other necessary dental work. My father used to tell me, and I tell my boys, that dental work is like repairs on the roof or the furnace---it must be attended to promptly when it's needed.

We won't include Christmas savings in our budget for 1930. Because this is a fund that must be created from Actual savings in personal and household expenditures. I would like to say a word, though, about Christmas savings.

Mrs. T. and the boys worked out a sort of Christmas budget this year, with an eye to Christmas buying. Christmas 1928 was an especially big one at our home. And after getting the bills I decided that it should have been even bigger. When the last bill arrived I gave such a good imitation of shell-shock that the rest of the family almost sympathized with me. Anyway, they started a Christmas savings account. Each week they saved a little out of their allowances and added it to the account. On last December 1 the bank sent them a check, for an amount that has completely covered this year's Christmas expenses. So I'm in favor of Christmas savings. It's a great thing for father.

Of course, all this comes out of the family income. But otherwise it would have been spent during the year and forgotten about. Incidentally, I notice that Christmas savings deposited in banks of the country during 1929 totalled more than 600 million dollars. In Washington, D. C., alone, residents of the nation's capital deposited more than 7 1/2 million dollars.

Now let's get back to the annual budget. There's one other very important item. And it's one item that will pay dividends. I refer to the garden. Just now I'm looking over seed catalogs and making up a list of seeds and plants to be ordered for planting. Then there'll be fertilizers. And, in addition, I'm ordering some asparagus and rhubarb plants, and a few raspberry and strawberry plants.

You might be interested in the items for my garden budget. Here's the way I've figured them out:

Seeds and plants, $18; fertilizers, $16; water for irrigation $4; miscellaneous supplies, $4. Total, $42. Counting in flower seeds and bulbs for the flower garden the total bill will run to about $50.

Well, last year the vegetable garden alone furnished us vegetables worth at least $75, so I expect the $50 to be well spent.

I'm going to keep record of all garden products at current market prices, and the garden will be given credit. Perhaps it doesn't pay to grow certain fruits and vegetables--apples and potatoes for instance--because they require too much space. That's a matter everyone must decide for himself. If I lived on a fairly large place, though, or on a small farm I'd

at least grow potatoes.

So much for the garden. I keep a small flock of chickens, too, so we'll have to make room in the budget for poultry. Here I have two classes of expense---one for the upkeep of houses, fences and so forth; and one for new stock, feed, and incidentals. This, like the garden, is a profit-paying investment. At least, we'll have fresh eggs and chicken for our table.

Of course if I hired the labor to take care of my garden and my poultry, or even if I made an adequate charge for my own time, both of these items might show a loss. But I really enjoy the work. It provides a source of recreation that seems to do me good. And for that matter, Mrs. T. takes care of the chickens most of the time.

Now, so far, we haven't said anything about a very important budget item---about putting aside something for a rainy day. After my budget is complete, for example, I hope to have 15 to 20 per cent of my income left for investment. If I were still paying for a home I'd put it there. But it might also go into savings accounts, or first mortgage securities, or good bonds or---well, that's up to you. This is a matter for everybody's own best judgment.

Now - but wait a second. I almost forgot about the family automobile. The expense of depreciation and operation we'll charge to family living expenses. And if we take a vacation by automobile we can properly charge a part of our car expense to the vacation fund.

I'd suggest that if you're interested in more efficient budgeting you write to the Department of Agriculture for the latest bulletins on how to make and manage a family budget. I have one here, Farmers' Bulletin No. 1553-F, and it has helped out a lot. The title is "Planning and Recording Family Expenditures." I'll be glad to get it and others for you. Drop me a line.

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ANNOUNCEMENT: It does look as if Neighbor Thompson were going to keep THAT resolution, doesn't it? If you want bulletins on the subject of regulating family expenditures, write him. As you know, he gets his mail at Station_____ or at the Department of Agriculture in Washington.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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U. S. Department of Agriculture

PRIMER FOR TOWN FARMERS Wednesday, January 8, 1930

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Speaking Time: 10 Minutes.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Again we turn to our weekly reading from the Primer for Town Farmers, which Station___presents each Wednesday through cooperation of the United States Department of Agriculture and our friend, Neighbor Thompson. Mr. Thompson talks today on a rather unusual subject--a subject that all of us are interested in, directly or indirectly. He's going to tell us what he's learned from his Department of Agriculture friends about propagating game birds. Neighbor Thompson.

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When I was a youngster my father had quite a reputation as a hunter in our home community. During the hunting seasons he kept our table well supplied with quail and wild duck. And occasionally he would go over into the next county and bring home some grouse.

I was never able to decide which one I liked best. Some folks declare that quail make the best eating there is. Others claim that pheasant can't be beat. And still others swear by duck. As far as I'm concerned they're ALL mighty fine eating. If the birds are cooked by an expert I'd hesitate to show any discrimination.

But anyway, I remember that I used to take great pride in shining and oiling my father's old-fashioned double-barrelled shot-gun. And I longed impatiently for the day when I'd be strong enough to pull the trigger without losing my feet--and, possibly, part of my shoulder. I finally did get a gun of my own. But by that time quail weren't so plentiful, the grouse, or pheasants, had practically disappeared from the next county, and we had to drive a hundred miles for good duck-hunting.

Nowadays we don't think so much about driving a hundred miles for a good day's hunting. Mrs. T. often remarks that I'd walk a thousand miles for one quail. But in many parts of the country there isn't any good hunting, even if you do drive a hundred miles. There are a lot more hunters than there were in those days. And there are a lot fewer places for game birds to live. Even in our wide-open spaces out west the game-bird population has declined rapidly--in some cases, alarmingly.

So I thought you'd be interested in what the Department of Agriculture wild-life men have to say about propagating game birds. With so many hunters nowadays, and with the encroachment of our growing population on game-bird domains, such restrictions as closed seasons and other measures, aren't enough to maintain the supply. To keep our fields and woodlands stocked with game birds we'll have to grow some of the birds ourselves.

I learned from a bulletin by Mr. W. L. McAtee, of the Biological Survey, who is the Department of Agriculture's specialist on game-bird development, that the possibilities of rearing game birds by hand have long been demonstrated in other countries, where on many estates large stocks are produced year after year. And enough has already been done in this country to prove that birds can be propagated successfully. Increase in the extent of successful game farming is limited only by land area, and by the money and effort devoted to it.

Some of our larger game farms produce thousands of birds every year, and hundreds of thousands of eggs. And they have a very profitable business. There's a good market for both birds and eggs. Instead of getting 30 cents a dozen, or half-dozen, they get around 30 cents an egg. And many of the birds for re-stocking purposes sell for around $2.50 apiece.

Incidentally the birds most successfully and commonly raised are the ring-necked pheasant, the bobwhite quail, and the mallard duck--plus one other, the Canada goose. Other birds are raised successfully too, though less extensively. The important point is that methods have been worked out that assure success, if they are intelligently and energetically followed.

Now, as far as we Town Farmers are concerned, many of us aren't interested in raising game-birds ourselves. We don't have the room to go in for it on a permanent business basis. However, game birds CAN be propagated on a small scale and within relatively little space. You can grow them in a good-sized dooryard, or in a small orchard. I have a neighbor out here--Charley Wiggins--who has been raising a few ring-necked pheasants in his back-yard for several years. Pheasants will do better in limited space than the other birds.

My Department of Agriculture friends tell me also, that more pheasants are raised by man than any other kind of game bird. And that nine-tenths or more of the total number of pheasants reared in this country are ringnecks. The ringneck is pecularly fitted for propagating and re-stocking operations. It is polygamous and prolific. And, while it is sufficiently controllable to be handled easily on game farms, it retains its wildness and wariness so as to be well able to take care of itself when released.

Now, as I said, we can raise a few game birds successfully in good-sized yards or lots. But to put game bird propagation on a really paying business basis requires plenty of room. In fact, the area of available land should not be less than four times that required to care for the birds properly in a single year. Success requires that birds be raised on a crop basis. And the crops must be rotated.

This space requirement leads us a little out of the field of town farming. But many of you own land that would be ideal for game-farming. And, at least, we can encourage propagation of birds in our own communities by friends who <u>could</u> make it a profitable business.

Here is a point, by the way, that Department of Agriculture specialists emphasize. They declare that no land is too good for a game farm--that those who hope to succeed on land useless for other purposes--on barren areas where almost every particle of food consumed by the birds must be brought in and hand-fed--are doomed to disappointment.

If game farming is to be efficient, and economical, and profitable, as much as possible of the seeds, grain, and forage consumed by the birds must be produced on the ground. Insects, a very necessary food for the young, must be entirely of

local origin. And the abundance of insects depends almost directly upon soil fertility, since insects subsist in abundance only upon rank vegetation.

This means that, from an agricultural standpoint, the game farm must be managed with just as much foresight and care, and in much the same way, as a hay or grain farm. Plowing, fallowing, fertilizing, planting, and cultivating are just as essential where game birds are the crop as where grain furnishes the income. So the scheme of crop rotation that is most satisfactory in the region concerned, is the one generally followed.

One of the main factors in raising game birds successfully is, of course prevention of disease. And that depends pretty largely on one point--sanitation. We also have to take steps to protect the birds from their natural enemies, such as: hawks, owls, crows, cats, dogs, weasels, and rats.

As you know, most of the states have laws or regulations affecting the propagation of game birds, and requiring game breeders to take out licenses. And, also federal permits are necessary for the capture of live migratory waterfowl for propagation or for buying and selling any wild waterfowl raised in captivity. The latter permits you get through the Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture in Washington. The Biolocical Survey also furnishes copies of digests of state laws on game bird propagation, and the addresses of state officials to whom application should be made for state licenses or for information.

If you're interested in the business of rearing game birds, either on a small or on a large scale, you'll want to have Farmers' Bulletin No. 1521-F, entitled "Propagation of Game Birds." Mr. McAtee tells in this bulletin most of the things you'll want to know. Drop me a line, and I'll see that you get a copy.

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ANNOUNCEMENT: You have been listening to Neighbor Thompson, giving us his weekly reading from the PRIMER FOR TOWN FARMERS. If you want that bulletin, or if you want still further information on the propagation of game birds, write him a lette in care of Station_____ or in care of the Department of Agriculture. The Farmers' Bulletin number, again, was 1521.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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PRIMER FOR TOWN FARMERS Wednesday, January 15, 1930.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Speaking Time: 10 minutes.

ANNOUNCEMENT: It pays to be just a little ahead of the rush these days. Now that we're all past doing our Christmas shopping early here comes Neighbor Thompson to tell us to do our seed-shopping early. Mr. Thompson has already started to look through the seed catalogs. And now, in today's PRIMER FOR TOWN FARMERS, he's going to give us some of the benefits of his reading.

*****

What is more pleasant than a midwinter evening at home--a big fire in the fireplace--an easy chair--a pipe--perhaps a dish of fruit and nuts--and a fresh stock of 1930 seed catalogs?

Is that foolishness? Seed catalogs in the middle of January? Well, if it is, I plead guilty. But I've come to believe that it's a good idea to get an early start. I learned a lesson last year. I put off ordering my asparagus plants until I was almost ready to set them out. By that time I could get only second-grade stock of a variety I didn't care to plant. So this year I've already ordered 100 asparagus plants for March 1 delivery.

That may be a little early to set them out, too, but I can keep them in a cool cellar until the ground is in shape. And, by the way, I'm ordering some raspberry and blackberry plants now, also, so that they will be reserved for me.

Some of my friends around here sort of scoffed at me the other day when I told them about my assortment of seed catalogs. But I asked them over one evening, and I don't know when a better time has been enjoyed by all. Mrs. T. had to remind us it was almost midnight before we finally put the catalogs away for the night.

The upshot was that we decided to go in together and order our supply of seeds and plants. That way we figure we can not only get the best there is, but we can save a little on price.

The question is "What are we going to plant this year?" On my list I have peas first. My garden is too small for many rows of peas. But I AM ordering a pint each of seed of two varieties--Extra Early Alaska and Little Marvel. If I can spare the room I want to get about a half pint of the Telephone variety, too, and a half pint of either Gradus or Thomas Laxton. Gradus is almost as early as Extra Early Alaska and has the advantage of combining earliness with large size. The Thomas Laxton and the Telephone, incidentally, need wire or brush to support them.

Next on the list come radishes. I'm getting only a packet of Scarlet Globe white tipped for my earliest radishes, and a packet of Lady Finger, Long White Icicle or some similar variety for second early. It takes just a few feet of row to give us all the radishes we want, and they're gone as soon as the hot weather strikes them.

Then, I have beets and there are a half dozen good varieties. I generally plant the one known as Crosby's Improved Egyptian. Detroit Dark Red is another good one for the home garden.

The same applies to carrots--- there are several good varieties. I usually plant the Chantenay.

For cabbage I get a packet each of Early Jersey Wakefield and Copenhagen Market. You can, of course, buy the plants at seedstores. But I really prefer to sow the seed in the house about the first of March-- that is, in the latitude of Washington, D. C.,--- then transplant them to my coldframe, and set them in the garden about the second week in April.

We consume lots of lettuce in the Thompson household, so I saved over some lettuce seed from last year--- of the May King variety. I'm also ordering a packet of White-Seeded Big Boston, sometimes called Unrivaled. These two varieties give a succession of lettuce until hot weather. Following the example of W.R.B., the garden advisor, I sow the seed in the house and move the plants to the garden as soon as the ground can be worked. I'm also going to try some Early Curled Simpson this season, since it stands hot weather better than the heading varieties.

Another new idea W.R.B. gave me the other day is this: putting protectors over some early lettuce plants. He says it brings them along a little faster. Of course I expect to have lettuce in my coldframe, too, before any of the outdoor plants are ready.

Beans are another important crop in my garden. I'm going to plant one row of a green-podded variety and one row of the yellow or wax-podded kind. The rustless Golden Wax is a good yellow bean and I've selected the Giant Stringless Green-Pod for the other row. Bountiful is another excellent greenpodded variety.

Let's not forget Lima beans, either. One row of bush Limas and a few hills of the climbing variety will be about right.

Do you have room for sugar corn? You're fortunate if you have. I really haven't, but I can't resist the temptation to plant about a hundred hills of Golden Bantam.. The maturity of the first ears of Golden Bantam corn is an event to which everybody in our family looks forward. If there's anything better than Golden Bantam sweet corn, I don't know what it is--- unless it's more Golden Bantam.

Now we're down to onion sets. I usually plant about a pint of sets for early spring use. And later on I want about 200 southern-grown onion plants for summer supply and for storage.

What about tomatoes? Well, I have some seed of the Marglobe tomato, which I saved from two extra fine specimens last year. W.R.B. advises me to plant it in my window box about the middle of February, or perhaps the first of March. Then, when the weather gets warm enough, to put the plants into the coldframe. By the time it's safe to set them in the garden they will be about 8 inches high, with stems almost as thick as your finger.

I'm also making room in my coldframe for pepper plants. My order is going in for one packet of a large sweet pepper, such as Chinese Giant or World Beater, and for one packet of Pimento pepper seed.

Now, let's see. Are we forgetting anything? There's summer squash -- one packet of Early White Bush or Patty-Pan seed, and one of the Summer Crookneck. And there are muskmelons, and watermelons, and cucumbers. Three hills of cucumbers and 5 hills of muskmelons ought to be about right -- they take a lot of room. Watermelons are out of the question for my small garden. And then, there is spinach. Nowadays no garden would be complete without its bed of early spring spinach.

I always get a quarter-pound of seed of the variety known as Bloomsdale Savoy and sow it in a specially prepared bed, planting the seed in little drills about 6 inches apart. This way you can hoe between the rows and keep the bed free of weeds. And by the way, I'm ordering my seed now so that it will be on hand just as soon as the ground can be worked.

Well, that's about all. I've got to have a little space left for flowers, especially the annuals. I'm ordering some nasturtiums, marigolds, pansies, petunias, sweet alyssum, cosmos, periwinkle and zinnias.

You can see by this time that MY trouble is to limit my list of seed in accordance with the space that I have. I usually want to order everything in the catalog. But experience and W. R. B. tell me that I should confine myself to a relatively few of the most hardy standard flowers. It is surprising, though, how much you CAN grow on a small piece of land if you keep every foot of it occupied all the time.

My policy is to keep rather shy of the novelties and the big headliners in the seedmen's catalogs. I usually stick to the true and tried varieties until I'm convinced there's something better. At any rate I've found that it pays to buy good seeds, even though they may cost slightly more.

Now, I see my time is up. The main lesson in today's PRIMER, if there is a lesson, is that it might pay you to do your seed-shopping early. At least I've found that it does. Mrs. T. says she only hopes that my enthusiasm holds up when I start limbering up the spade next spring.

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ANNOUNCEMENT: That was your friend, Neighbor Thompson, giving you the weekly reading from the PRIMER FOR TOWN FARMERS. Next week Mr. Thompson is going to take up pruning and spraying. And meanwhile, if you have any questions to ask, write him at Station_____ or in care of the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington. While you are writing, ask for Farmers' Bulletin 1044-F "The City Home Garden." This bulletin will give you pointers additional to Neighbor Thompson's discussion today.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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PRIMER FOR TOWN FARMERS — Wednesday, January 22,1930

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Speaking Time: 9 Minutes

ANNOUNCEMENT: Every Wednesday at this time Station_____, with the cooperation of the United States Department of Agriculture and our friend, Neighbor Thompson, presents the PRIMER FOR TOWN FARMERS. You'll remember that last week Mr. Thompson began to work up his gardening enthusiasm early, with a glance through the seed catalogs. Today he turns his attention to fruit trees and shrubbery. Now, he'll tell you the rest of it.

*****

This business of turning attention to shrubs and fruit trees is a little different from reading through seed catalogs. It means work, and work that has to be done pretty soon now. And I have never been overly fond of getting out this time of year and working around the house.

However, last year my inclination to loaf got me in trouble. I put off spraying and pruning until considerably past the proper time and as a result much of my fruit turned out poor and wormy. My trees, and some of my shrubbery, were infested with scale insects. So this winter I've resolved to do something about it, even at the cost of digging out the overalls and working.

We've worked out a plan here in this community that we think ought to be successful, and profitable for all of us. The other day George Williams, myself, and W.R.B., my Department of Agriculture neighbor, were talking down at the hardware store, and we decided to go on a tour of inspection. We made the rounds of the community, and we found just about what we expected--that almost without exception, the fruit trees hereabouts need dormant spray-to rid them of scale insects; and that many trees haven't been pruned for years.

Then the question came up: what to do about it? It's one thing to know that trees need spraying and pruning and another thing to do it, or have it done, in the right way and at reasonable cost. Well, George finally had a happy idea. He suggested that we form a sort of community circle, and all go together to help each other out.

Everybody we met greeted the idea favorably, so last night we got together at my place and talked it over. None of us have enough trees to make it worthwhile to own the kind of high-grade sprayer that's necessary for effective spraying. So we formed a pool and put in an order for a modern

hand-spray outfit. It will be mounted on wheels to enable moving it over the gardens and grounds. Two or three neighbors will work together, and as soon as one finishes the equipment will pass on to the next, and so on.

We have a committee on information, to get bulletins, spray schedules and other necessary material. And we have another committee on supplies, to order equipment and have it on hand. A third committee will look after pruning, determining what pruning is needed and what tools we'll need.

The plan is to start right away, just as soon as the equipment arrives. Our county agent is going to give us a pruning demonstration, and W.R.B. will help out as much as time permits. He started us off last night with some pointers on pruning.

The aim in pruning neglected trees, he told us, is to thin them somewhat and let the sunlight into the centers. He cautioned, however, against cutting trees too heavily at one time. That usually results in a heavy growth of water sprouts and only adds to pruning difficulties. He also warned us regarding the removal of fruit spurs, especially from apple and pear trees. Inexperienced pruners may not only butcher the outside of an apple tree, for example, but they may go on the inside and trim off all of the small branches which bear fruiting spurs.

You can easily distinguish a fruiting spur from a growing branch, though. As a rule they are from one to three or four inches long, and frequently much branded. Fruit buds usually are larger, plumper and more rounded than are leaf buds; the latter, in turn, are more slender and more pointed than fruit buds.

To quote W.R.B. further, here's another suggestion. In cutting branches from any tree in pruning, always make a smooth, even cut close to the main branch or trunk from which the lateral branch is being removed. If a large branch is to be cut off, first make a cut on the underside 4 or 5 inches from the main trunk. Let this cut go about half way through the branch. Then turn your saw to the upper side and complete the cut from there. And it's usually a good idea to have the upper cut about an inch farther from the trunk than the lower one. That enables you to remove the branch without danger of splitting and damaging the trunk. Then, after the branch is removed the remaining stub can be cut close to the trunk without splitting.

Be sure, also, to have a brush handy, and a can of either white lead paint or creosote. Painting the surface made by the removal of large branches helps to keep out organisms that cause decay, and thereby delaying or preventing the normal healing of the wounds.

The committee on supplies put in a question about equipment at this point. W.R.B. told them that for cutting branches close to the trunk a special pruning saw is desirable. But a pair of so-called lopping shears, with handles about 24 inches long, is best for cutting off branches an inch or less in diameter--especially where branches are simply headed back or thinned out. To complete the pruning equipment he advises getting small pairs of hand shears. These are used to cut small branches and to remove water sprouts.

When it comes to pruning peach trees a little different method is necessary than for pears and apples. Instead of fruit buds being on spurs they develop on wood of the last season's growth, and as a rule a tree has on it many times as many buds as are necessary for a full crop.

W.R.B. says that the idea in pruning a peach tree is first to keep the tree well spread out so that sunlight gets into the center and so that no part is so high above the ground that it cannot be reached with an ordinary step ladder. Then, thin out and head back the last season's growth to reduce the number of blossom buds.

Blossom buds are distinguished from leaf buds by their size and shape. They are larger and plumper.

"Before I prune a peach tree." he told us, "I walk around it two or three times to study it and pick out branches that should be removed. I sort of balance the tree in my mind and imagine how it will look when certain branches are removed--always with the idea, of course, of distributing the crop well over the entire tree."

As to equipment, lopping shears and hand shears are about the only tools necessary. A pruning saw is needed when for any reason a large limb must be removed.

Now, here's one pointer on spraying that may relieve you of some trouble. For the most part, W.R.B. recommends that it's all right to spray scale-in-fested shrubs with lime sulphur. But use it only on shrubs that drop their leaves during the winter. Never use it on evergreens. Several years ago I almost ruined a fine boxwood hedge by spraying it with lime sulphur. It completely died out in several places.

Of course oil emulsion sprays have to be applied carefully, too. They injure certain plants, especially plants on which leaves tend to remain during the winter.

Now, my time's up. I hope that by this time next week our community spraying and pruning circle will be in action. And we hope that when spring comes we'll have our fruit trees and shrubs in the best condition ever. The same to you.

--ooOoo--

ANNOUNCEMENT: Perhaps that community circle idea can be worked out to advantage in your community. It sounds like an excellent plan. Meanwhile, if you want more information on pruning and spraying write for Farmers' Bulletin 181-F, entitled "Pruning." Address your request in care of Station _____ or direct to the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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PRIMER FOR TOWN FARMERS Wednesday, January 29, 1930

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Speaking Time: 10 Minutes

ANNOUNCEMENT: Another week has gone by, and still Neighbor Thompson's enthusiasm for work is sticking with him. In today's PRIMER FOR TOWN FARMERS presented by Station ____, with the cooperation of the United States Department of Agriculture, he takes as his subject, "Anticipating Spring." Now, we hear from him. Neighbor Thompson.

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I wish to serve notice that I'm keeping one of my New Year's resolutions. I resolved, as I publicly announced on January 1, to do my work around the house early---and not to let it pile up until spring actually sneaks up on me, as it usually does. And--well, even my wife concedes that I've done pretty well.

In odd moments I've managed to make a pretty thorough clean-up of the entire garden, and of my small fruits. And I've moved and transplanted several young trees to better locations. I've already told you about doing my seed-shopping early, and about the community circle we've formed for getting our spraying and pruning done. Our equipment is here, by the way, and two of my neighbors are all through spraying their trees and shrubs.

Of course the question is: "How's the weather in your community?" Anticipating spring is discouraging, to say the least, with six inches of snow on the ground. In the South pre-spring activities are well under way. But the best the rest of the country can do is to take advantage of the good days as they come along.

If you have a place like I have, you'll find there is no lack of things to do, if you look for them. Fences and hedges, for instance. It seems that no matter how well fences are built, or how well hedges are planted and kept, they require attention. Fences, especially wire fences such as are used around the poultry yard, have a disconcerting habit of rusting, making it necessary to paint or renew them occasionally. I understand that manufacturers are now treating wire fences so that they do not rust readily. And I assure you that my next new fence is going to be of the rust-resisting variety.

I've also discovered that fence posts can be annoying too. I tried iron pipes for posts and set them in concrete, but they didn't prove very satisfactory. They rusted off at the top of the concrete and didn't last any longer than a good wooden post. Now I have cedar posts round the poultry yard, but even they are showing signs of decay. The only wooden posts I've used that really last are Black Locust. If I lived where the Osage Orange grows, though, I'd use them.

Just recently I've been trying out some steel posts with patent wire clamps to fasten the woven wire fencing. They seem to be very satisfactory, the only drawback being that they bend rather easily. Perhaps some day I'll run on to the ideal fence post that will last indefinitely, and that will be both attractive and strong. In the meantime I'm rebuilding and repainting now, as the weather gives me a chance.

Another good job that I got out of the way during a recent spell of mild weather was making up a pile of soil for growing plants in the spring. When I laid concrete walks last fall I piled up the leftover sod in one corner of the garden, with about an equal amount of manure. And I added cleanings from the poultry house, some garden loam, and a little sand. The other day I worked over this mixture completely, chopping it all together with a sharp spade and mixing up the soil so that it will be uniform. This was W.R.B.'s suggestion, and I'm really proud of the result--a splendid pile of rich soil ready for growing spring plants. Try it on <u>your</u> garden.

In the South, of course, it's time to go even farther than this. Many Southern gardeners have already planted early potatoes, onion sets, spinach, lettuce and beets. W.R.B. tells me that many gardens are plowed or spaded and in good shape. North of the latitude of Washington, D. C. and St. Louis the main activity has been hauling fertilizer to the garden and mulching roses and shrubbery. But if the ground isn't covered with snow, or frozen hard, there's usually something to do.

And even if you are snowbound, there's indoor work. In our dining room we have 3 seed boxes in the south windows, with lettuce and tomato seeds sown in them. I'm a little early perhaps, but I'm giving my plants plenty of time to start before it is warm enough to set them in the hotbed or coldframe. About the middle of next month I plan to sow some of the early, or annual, flowering plants so that they'll be all ready to set outdoors when the weather permits.

Then, there's the matter of overhauling hotbed sash. W.R.B., our garden adviser, recommends that they be painted at least once a year. And of course broken glass must be replaced. I've set up a workshop in the basement for the purpose. Following W.R.B.'s suggestion I removed the glass from some of the frames, cleaned the frames thoroughly, gave them two coats of white lead paint, reglazed them, setting the glass back in fresh, moderately soft putty. Some of the glass needed cleaning also, to allow spring sunshine to give plants full benefit.

Another good winter job is to get the tools in good shape. If you didn't clean the spade, hoe, spading fork, trowels and so forth thoroughly last fall with an oily rag they may need some attention. I've been putting in spare moments cleaning and oiling them, sandpapering the rusty spots, and giving them a good sharpening.

Incidentally, you can improve the wooden handles of garden tools by administering an occasional dressing of linseed oil. Simply clean off the handle, rub linseed oil over it, then hang the tool away and allow the oil to soak in. This makes the handle waterproof, gives it a fine smooth finish, and prolongs its life considerably.

Right now I have two other projects in mind. One is painting the wheelbarrow. The other is putting the lawnmower in condition. Last spring I took my lawnmower down to the shop for repairs and there were so many ahead of me that I had to borrow Charley Kennedy's to cut my lawn the first time. This year, in line with my New Year's resolution, I'm taking precautions.

Well, you can see that I'm planning to fill most of my spare moments ----which, after all, is a pretty good thing. And I'm really looking forward to spring. If my enthusiasm holds out this will be the first year that I've been ready for it. It'll be the first time, I hope, that I'll actually get everything done that I want to do.

That sounds good, doesn't it? Try it on YOUR garden. And if you do --- Good Luck:

ANNOUNCEMENT: That was Neighbor Thompson, anticipating spring in today's PRIMER FOR TOWN FARMERS. Right along this line the United States Department of Agriculture has free bulletins that may help, and Mr. Thompson will be glad to get them for you if you'll write him-- in care of Station --- or the Department of Agriculture. Two bulletins that you many want are: Farmers' Bulletin 1044-F, The City Home Garden, and Farmers' Bulletin 1242-F, Permanent Fruit and Vegetable Gardens.